

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KHARTO 02318 231132Z
ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 DODE-00 ACDA-12
AID-05 EB-08 MCE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10
NSAE-00 INRE-00 L-03 /066 W
-----086742 231151Z /75

O 231056Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7422
INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE
HQ USAF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 2318

NAIROBI FOR AMBASSADOR BERGUS AND DAS HARROP

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SU
SUBJECT: AIR DEFENSE PACKAGE: RADAR SITE SURVEY

REF: (A) STATE 109241 (B) KHARTOUM 2003 (C) STATE 117475
(D) KHARTOUM 2191

1. DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF MJR. GEN ABD AL-MAJID HAMED KHALIL
SUMMONED ME TO HIS OFFICE MAY 23 TO INFORM ME THAT SUDANGOV
HAS FORMALLY DECIDED TO PURCHASE US RADAR PACKAGE. HE
REQUESTED THAT RADAR SITE SURVEY TEAM COME TO SUDAN ASAP
AFTER JUNE 2. GEN. MAJID REVIEWED OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSION
THIS SUBJECT (REF B) AND SAID SUDANESE DECIDED THAT EVEN IF
NON-AMERICAN RADARS WERE COMPATIBLE WITH F-5S, DELIVERY
OF THESE SYSTEMS MAY NOT BE ABLE TO BE COORDINATED WITH
DELIVERY OF AIRCRAFT AS WELL AS US RADARS COULD. THIS WAS
IMPORTANT ENOUGH CONSIDERATION TO LEAD SUDANGOV TO DECIDE
TO BUY US RADARS FOR USE WITH F-5S.

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PAGE 02 KHARTO 02318 231132Z

2. GEN. MAJID EXPLAINED FURTHER THAT IT OF UTMOST
IMPORTANCE TO BE ABLE TO USE F-5S IMMEDIATELY UPON RECEIVING
THEM. THEREFORE, SUDANGOV DID NOT WANT TAKE CHANCES
WITH NON-AMERICAN RADARS. FYI: HOWEVER, SUDANGOV STILL
WILL PURCHASE FRENCH (THOMSON CSF) RADARS, BUT THEY WILL
BE USED FOR OTHER PURPOSES. END FYI. AT THAT POINT I NOTED
THAT IT WAS FOR THIS VERY REASON THAT WE FELT ADVANCE

DELIVERY OF F-5S MAY NOT RPT NOT BE WISE. I CITED PROBLEM OF WADI SAIDNA AIRBASE FACILITIES AND NOTED THAT IT WOULD NOT RPT NOT BE PRUDENT TO DELIVERY F-5S IF AIR BASE FACILITIES WERE INADEQUATE FOR F-5S.

3. IN HIS TYPICALLY SPIRITED MANNER MAJID TURNED ARGUMENT AROUND SAYING THAT SUDANESE WOULD BE SURE TO HAVE AIR BASE READY BY TIME F-5S WERE DELIVERED. THAT IS, IT NOT RPT NOT CASE OF AIRCRAFT DELIVERY BEING DEPENDENT ON AIRBASE IMPROVEMENTS BUT SUDANESE MAKING SURE AIRBASE IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR AIRCRAFT DELIVERY. MAJID WAS CONFIDENT THIS COULD BE DONE AND HESBRIEFLY ALLUDED TO EGYPTIAN ASSISTANCE, PRESUMABLY WITH IMPROVEMENTS AT WADI SAIDNA AIRBASE RUNWAY. HE ALSO NOTED THAT F-5S COULD BE BASED AT KASSALA IF NEED BE.

4. GEN. MAJID INDICATED THAT HE ANTICIPATES INITIAL DELIVERY OF F-5S BY EARLY JUNE 1979 RPT 1979. HE CLAIMED THAT F-5 SITE SURVEY TEAM INDICATED THAT THIS MIGHT BE POSSIBLE AND THAT PRESIDENT NIMEIRI HAS DIRECTED HIM TO AIM TO HAVE F-5 CAPABILITY BY THEN. I URGED GEN. MAJID TO ACKNOWLEDGE MAGNITUDE OF OVERALL TRANSACTION AND TO BE REALISTIC ABOUT WHEN SUDANESE WILL BE ABLE PROPERLY TO ABSORB F-5S INTO INVENTORY. I POINTED OUT THAT AIRCRAFT WERE MORE ADVANCED THAN MIGS PRESENTLY IN INVENTORY. MAJID SAID, QUOTE IT'S JUST TWELVE PLANES UNQUOTE WHEREUPON DATT, WHO ACCOMPANIED ME, CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 KHARTO 02318 231132Z

AND I REITERATED OUR ARGUMENTS.

5. COMMENT: SUDANGOV HAS NOW RPT NOW OFFICIALLY INDICATED DESIRE FOR US RADAR AND RELATED EQUIPMENT. THEREFORE, BELIEVE WE SHOULD PROCEED WITH PLANS FOR SITE SURVEY TEAM TO ARRIVE O/A JUNE 2. AS MAJID'S REMARKS MAKE CLEAR, SUDANESE CONTINUE ATTACH HIGHEST PRIORITY TO F-5/AIR DEFENSE PROGRAM AND WE SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR THEM TO CONTINUE URGE US TO ADVANCE DELIVERY OF F-5S. IT THEREFORE WILL BE NECESSARY CONTINUALLY TO REMIND THEM OF THE MANY FACTORS THAT MUST BE SATISFIED BEFORE WE CAN IN GOOD CONSCIENCE DELIVER F-5S. IT MAY TAKE SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS BEFORE EVERYBODY UNDERSTANDS EACH OTHER.

6. ACTION REQUESTED. PLEASE ADVISE EMBASSY SOONEST RE ETA AND COMPOSITION RADAR SITE SURVEY TEAM.
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Message Attributes

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